

groups, precluding the idea that these young people get together only for delinquency, showing the existence of a "parallel socialization".

1042 - WHEN ROVING BANDITS FAIL TO BECOME STATIONARY: MASS VIOLENCE BY MEXICAN CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS

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Most studies of mass killings by crime cartels in Mexico's criminal insurgency have failed to focus on the micro-dynamics of such killings, thus contributing to the implementation of ineffective violence-reduction policies. The motivation for mass killing in this conflict has predominantly been presented in dichotomous terms, either as entirely irrational, or as highly goal-directed. While proponents of the former approach argue that Mexican mass violence lacks coherent instrumental purposes, defenders of the latter claim that killings are part of carefully orchestrated strategies. To date, however, no analysis has attempted to theorize the organizational processes which lead these groups to employ mass killings. How does the decision to use this type of violence take shape within the Mexican cartels? By analysing published statements of cartel members, this paper will examine how members of these groups justify the use of killings by their organizations. I argue that while mass killings are usually employed for instrumental objectives, they are also shaped by the differing and sometimes conflicting aims of criminal organizations and those of sub-groups within those organisations. Mass cartel violence is thus better conceptualized in terms of agency dilemmas, so that particular acts of violence often undermine the cartels' own overarching objectives.

1043 - (NON-) GOVERNMENTAL INTERVENTIONS REGARDING GANGS IN THE DRC AND EL SALVADOR: A COMPARISON

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This article is the output of a dissertation research, which has been written in order to obtain the degree of Master in Conflict and Development at the Ghent University.

While much research has been done on both gangs in the DRC, and even more on gangs in El Salvador, a comparison of both cases is rather innovative. This comparative research focuses on governmental and non-governmental interventions regarding gangs in the DRC and El Salvador. For the DRC we focus mainly on the *Kuluna* (organized criminal gangs) and the *Bashege* or *Maybobo* (street children). Although the latter cannot be categorized as criminal groups as such, they are often perceived and treated by the military and police in that way. For El Salvador we focus on the *Mara Salvatrucha 13* and *Barrio 18* (Eighteenth Street Gang). The

comparison focuses on three issues: first, the position of the corresponding state regarding these gangs; second, the position of other national and international actors (civil society, UN, OAS, etc.); third, the successes and failures of the measurements taken. The data of this research are obtained from scientific literature and interviews with stakeholders, which were mainly conducted during my research internship at the Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum of the Social Science Research Center in Brooklyn, New York.

12.19 SOCIAL REPRESENTATIONS ON SEXUALITY AND SEX CRIME

Chair: Anita Heber

1044 - CRIMINAL JUSTICE STUDENTS' ATTITUDES TOWARDS LESBIANS AND GAY MEN

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The fair and just treatment of LGBT people is increasingly a political hot topic in many societies. Although LGBT people have achieved greater acceptance in recent years, they continue to suffer from discrimination and violence. Victimization of LGBT people may take several forms, and institutional prejudice can lead these individuals to be reluctant to report victimization. Criminal justice students, as future criminal justice professionals, are supposed to protect individuals from victimization. Personal prejudices toward LGBT people can influence professionals' willingness and capacity to protect those people's rights.

This study presents the results of a survey on student attitudes towards lesbians and gay men. The survey was given to criminal justice students in two USA locations—California and Texas—as well as to students in Croatia who will be eligible to work within the criminal justice system. In addition, the survey was taken by students in Taiwan and China. We examine three broad questions in particular: 1. In general, how positive or negative are the attitudes of future criminal justice professionals towards lesbians and gay men? 2. Are there any differences in students' attitudes regarding students' gender, year of study and political orientation? and 3. What are the national and regional differences in attitudes? The results of this study may suggest reforms to criminal justice education and training in order to achieve better treatment of LGBT people and find ways to reduce their victimization.